

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 are extant in the case.

Claims 1 through 12 are allowed.

Examiner has variously rejected claims 13 through 15 and 18 through 22.

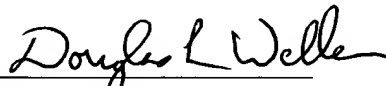
Applicant has canceled claims 13 through 15 and 18 through 22.

Examiner has objected to claims 16 and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Examiner has indicated that claims 16 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has so rewritten claim 16 as independent claim 23 and has so rewritten claim 17 as independent claim 26. Claims 24 and 25, now dependent upon claim 23, and claims 26 and 27, now dependent upon claim 25 were formerly included within the case as dependent claims 14 and 15. Applicant believes these dependent claims are allowable based on the allowability of the underlying independent claims 23 and 25.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that this Amendment has placed the present case in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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